



Women's Centennial Day Panel Discussion panel. Left to right, Margaret A. Doody, Ann Creighton Laing, Marilyn Katherine Sullivan. Photo by John Davie, Dal.

Women honoured with degrees

By MARY ELLEN JONES

IN 1885 MARGARET NEWCOMBE graduated from Dalhousie university.

Since then, thousands of women have passed through Dalhousie's gates following Newcombe, first woman graduate.

In celebration of those first hundred years, the Dalhousie women's centennial committee designated Saturday, Oct. 19 as Women's Centennial Day, and the university gave four women honorary degrees at the fall convocation late that afternoon.

Anna Creighton Laing, an ophthalmologist, Jean Wadds, a diplomat, Margaret A. Doody, an English professor and novelist, and Kathryn Sullivan, an astronaut were honoured in the ceremony.

During a discussion panel early in the morning, the degree recipients talked about being women and going to university during their stay at Dal.

Creighton Laing says three other women graduated with her in 1922 but "there was no feeling of discrimination. The men were all gentlemen." Doody, who graduated from Dal in 1960, says her female classmates weren't afraid of what they could accomplish and were grateful to those women who really worked for the feminist movement.

"Sherriff was the best. It was a sisterhood. One time we took the jelly (from the cafeteria) up three flights of stairs and tested scientifically to see if it would bounce back," she says.

Doody says the only time she found it difficult being a woman was when she started looking for work, and realized, "Dalhousie didn't hire women."

Sullivan, who graduated in 1978, faced similar problems. While studying at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, she discovered "a tip of the iceberg of men's inability to accommodate women." The Institute would not allow women on their ships because "they didn't have proper facilities," she says.

"Women still have a lot to do," says Doody. "When is there going to be a woman president at Dal? Well, you can whistle for that for the next century. You must realize when you have to fight and argue for your rights. If you smile politely and fit in, you may not be doing anything," she says.

Doody says being a woman in today's society is difficult but exciting. "It keeps you from being bored," she says.

Women's committee chair Judith Fingard says the women were a great success. The panel discussion was better than expected and she is proud of the entire day but the committee had no control over who was chosen to receive the degrees.

"It was passed by the Senate and the honorary degree committee," says Fingard.

Some members of the audience questioned why local women were not given honorary degrees

instead of the women who have already made their positions in society secure.

"They are all exceptional but I cannot help wondering if they speak for the masses," says Jennifer Wade, a member of the audience.

"I couldn't help but think of the single mothers coping day-to-day in mediocre jobs, not exciting jobs at all," she says.

Fingard says she wanted to honour local women but the committee had no control over which women Dalhousie was going to choose. "The committee did suggest some women who were important locally, people who were concerned with women's issues," she says.

"These names didn't get very far on the women's centennial committee and certainly did not get far on the honorary degrees committee. We had to work within existing structures," says Fingard.

Grant, Cromwell, Downey: As easy as 1-2-3

By BILL OVEREND

HALIFAX VOTERS SENT three new voices and a nine-member chorus of aldermanic incumbents to City Council on civic election day Oct. 19.

Wards One, Two and Three, the wards which concern the majority of Dalhousie students say two incumbents returned. Graham Downey restaked Ward Three, while Ron Cromwell was re-elected in Ward Two. A third candidate, Deborah Grant, triumphed in Ward One and will make her first visit to council chambers.

Ward Three was a cakewalk for the incumbent, Downey. He won at all but two of the polling stations, defeating challengers Margaret Fekeshazy and David Hill by considerable margins.

Downey says housing is first on his list of issues concerning

students.

"I understand housing is a problem for students in the area," says Downey. "Maybe we should look at the Infirmary as a place for housing students."

The Halifax Infirmary, due to be replaced, will soon be purchased by the Technical University of Nova Scotia, says Downey.

He says unemployment is also one of his student-related priorities. Downey himself lost his job through cut-backs at the CBC, he says.

In Ward Two, which includes the Dalhousie campus, the incumbent Cromwell survived a strong challenge from Brenda Shannon. Cromwell will begin his third term as councillor.

Cromwell was unavailable for comment.

Deborah Grant was "delighted" at her victory in Ward One, the most southerly ward in

Conference reaches consensus

By JOHN MACDONELL

THE BUCHANAN GOVERNMENT made good on one of its main election promises last week, as major Nova Scotia business community figures met in Halifax for a two-day conference on the state of the economy.

The conference, entitled "Meeting the Challenge of Change," cost the provincial government approximately \$100,000. It was attended by 150 representatives of all sectors of the provincial economy.

Although the government expected no magic solution from the conference, it was clear that delegates were out to come up with some definite proposals. Many heated debates occurred, both in the general forum and the individual workshops. It was the opinion of many that the conference achieved its purposes.

One of the most definite resolutions that emerged from the event was the recommendation that the provincial government phase out rent controls toward solving the housing shortage problem. The delegates thought the government must provide tax incentives, in addition to phasing out rent controls, in order to increase housing starts in the City of Halifax.

Other issues on which a consensus was reached included the following:

- A comprehensive review of the province's education system should be undertaken as soon as possible;
- The trucking industry should be deregulated to encourage small Nova Scotia businesses to export goods;
- Government commitment to the tourism industry should be strengthened, in view of the percentage of domestic income gained from this source;
- The government should implement recommendations contained in its 1984 White Paper;
- Management plans should be put forward to shore up Nova Scotia's forest industry, as pertaining to private woodlot owners.

Premier John Buchanan, when asked whether his government planned to act on the recommendations, indicated that steps would be taken. He says legislation will be introduced, if necessary, to demonstrate the government is responsive to the province's business community when opportunities for change are available.

New frat hits Dal campus

By KEN FALON

A NEW FRATERNITY, SIGMA Nu, has made its first appearance on Dalhousie campus.

Andrew Poplawski and Mark Shannon, Sigma Nu members representing two different eras, were on campus last week to find out how many Dal students would be interested in helping organize this new Nu chapter.

Poplawski and Shannon say they hope to gain official frat status by next school year.

Beginning in 1869 as a military fraternity, Sigma Nu offered an alternative to the frats which practiced ritual initiation rites, or "hazing". Soldiers coming back from the American Civil War saw the university practice as an unnecessary test of their courage and set forth to avoid it, pledging to do the same for anyone who joined.

"Honour, love and truth" is the motto of Sigma Nu, putting a heavy emphasis on brotherhood.

"It's important for members to be able to depend on each other to help in a time of need. Real friendship which you can find here may greatly ease your transition to this community and to college life," says Shannon.

Shannon says although Sigma Nu started as a military fraternity it no longer has such ties. "There will be no marching up and down the square," he says.

Like other frats, Sigma Nu has a self governing system. Over 120 years old, its active membership exceeds 8000 with over 150,000 long-standing members.

As with most fraternities concern over social life is noted. Socializing is important in Sigma Nu, as in most such organizations. "It is an important part of any person's life. At Sigma Nu we hope to reflect responsibility in all areas including this," says Shannon.

Todd Haynes, a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity, says "we also realize the perception of our social life and we are doing things to change it. Admittedly they are not completely unfounded. But it's not Animal House."